

BRIDGEPORT EVENING FARMER

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SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1915.

THE EFFECT OF CASTING A "YES" VOTE ON JUNE 19

THE VOTE of June 19, while not directly bringing commission government into being, will be a large step in that direction, if the affirmative view prevails. It will not be a final step.

In fact the vote, if it is in the affirmative, is equivalent only to an order to the city government to prepare a commission charter.

Commission government cannot come until a charter has been prepared, submitted and adopted.

Final action should not, and cannot, be taken until there is a charter, and judgment will be rendered directly upon the instrument by which the new kind of city government would be brought into being.

These are circumstances which very much simplify the situation to the average voter. There are many men in Bridgeport who have a leaning toward commission government, but do not understand it well enough to cast a ballot, if their vote were to produce a final result. There are others, opposed to the system, who might favor it, if they had more facts. These might not desire to settle the question out of hands.

But since a vote in the affirmative has only the effect of bringing a commission charter before the people, where it may be studied, and accepted or rejected upon its merit, there seems no good reason why the vote of June 19 should not be in the affirmative.

The case for commission government is strong enough to warrant a more careful, and more direct consideration.

The newspapers of Bridgeport seldom agree upon anything. It is significant that none of them is opposed to the commission form, and that all of them seem inclined to give the plan a fair hearing and a fair show.

Let the vote of June 19 be a large vote. Let it not be said that the electors of the city are too busy with their own affairs, and too selfish, to perform the public duty of voting upon so great a question.

We are told that commission government will terminate most of the scandals of the present ways of city management, are assured that in 800 cities where the commission plan has been tried, money has been saved, and that those cities have been made better places to live in.

Bridgeport ought to make full inquiry into these assertions. Bridgeport wants the best. This is why many Bridgeporters will prefer to vote "Yes" on June 19. They will desire to cast a vote in favor of going ahead. But the vote will not favor going ahead too fast. It will be an order to make a charter and submit it. By the charter that is submitted the people will determine whether the commission plan is what they want. That will come later.

THE KING LIBEL SUIT

THERE IS A STRONG probability the public will be denied the interesting facts that must have flowed from the King libel suit against Judge Light, had it been tried. The decision of Judge Williams, in sustaining the demurrer, appears to quash the action, unless there should be an appeal and his opinion should be reversed.

The essence of the Beard affidavit, which was read in public by Judge Light, and upon which Mr. King relied to show the libel, accused the Republican leader, in essence, of asking a commission to collect a bill.

However unfortunate, or pointed, might have been the inference drawn from such a statement, the laymen would have supposed that they did not amount to libel, as Judge Williams now says.

It is lawful, in other words to collect a bill for a commission.

This part of the Beard accusation is that which Mr. King most resented, but was really less likely to raise up public opposition to the object of the charges, than the additional allegation, that King asked Beard, when the latter was a member of the General Assembly, to vote against the Public Utilities bill.

It is, perhaps, unfortunate the case is not to go to trial. Or, to put it another way, it may be fortunate, if an appeal shall be taken, and the case is ultimately tried.

Just as the disclosures made in the Barnes libel suit against Col. Roosevelt were of great value to the United States, so the facts in the background of Connecticut politics would be of the greatest value to Connecticut.

Mr. King is strongly entrenched in the upper circle of Republican politics, which is not without its history. Judge Light has had the advantage of observing the actions of the Republican state machine, without being a party to them. He undoubtedly was prepared to spread upon the record very interesting information.

THE VALUE OF TIME

MR. BRYAN need not fear any large number of his fellow citizens will attribute to him any save the loftiest motives, because he left the cabinet. The office of secretary of state is a great office. Few may attain it, and few leave it until they must.

The question is not as to Mr. Bryan's honor, but as to his wisdom. He himself, in his statement of yesterday, sees clearly that a man may not blunder where the interests of his country are at stake. He defends his own course as good for him, and good for his country.

Whether or not the time is here when nations may pursue the Scriptural program, as mapped by Mr. Bryan is not at the moment under discussion. Most of us know that as yet no Christian nation has succeeded in conducting itself as the plain precepts of Christianity require.

The concrete question is, whether or not Mr. Bryan's action will hasten war, by causing Germany to feel that this country is divided, and hence lead Germany to make a more vigorous reply than would otherwise be made.

The Farmer thinks there will be a contrary effect. It believes that the effect of Mr. Bryan's action will be to gain time. The war party in the United States, the jingo element, which is trying to force the president into a war, will pause somewhat

from its labors. Germany, perceiving that the United States desires to treat her with exalted fairness, may wish to gain time, and so there is promise that negotiations may continue through a longer period, and perhaps through a period so long that the counsels of peace will prevail and the dangers of war disappear.

The President wants peace. Mr. Bryan wants peace. The majority of the American people want peace. Under these circumstances it will be strange, indeed, if the United States does not remain at peace.

250th Anniversary of the New York Aldermanic Board

New York's city fathers will observe today the 250th anniversary of the Aldermanic Board of the American metropolis. As a feature of the day, a new city flag will be hoisted over City Hall. The flag consists of perpendicular bars of blue, white and orange, the colors of the original Dutch flag, with the city's seal in blue on the white bar.

At the time of the creation of the Aldermanic Board, New York had a population of about 15,000. In 1864, just half a century after its founding by the Dutch, the English occupied New Amsterdam and changed its name to New York. The English form of municipal government by a mayor and board of aldermen was adopted. The British occupation did not continue unchallenged, for in 1873 a Dutch fleet of seven vessels, with 1,600 men, arrived at Sandy Hook. The Dutch opened fire, and after returning a single shot from Fort James, Capt. John Manning surrendered the town to its former owners. The Dutch reclamation of New Orange, and the form of municipal government was again changed. Early the following year, however, New Netherlands was restored to England. Capt. Manning, who had surrendered the town, was tried by court-martial and sentenced to have his sword broken over his head.

When the Aldermanic Board was constituted two and a half centuries ago, the municipal problems presented to the authorities were of a quite different character from what they are today. In 1665 the people of the future metropolis still believed in witchcraft, and in that year one Ralph Hill and his wife were arrested, Ralph being charged with practicing sorcery and black arts, and Mary accused of being a witch. The jury "found nothing considerable against them," and they were released with a warning. Five years later another woman, Katherine Harrison, who had been banished from Connecticut, was arrested on the complaint of citizens and charged with witchcraft. The court ordered her release, but the neighbors made it so uncomfortable for her that she had to leave.

The servant problem was as acute in the New York of those days as now, and many households had to do their own work because servants and negro slaves were so scarce. Slaves, mostly from Barbadoes, were at a premium, and commanded from \$150 to \$175 in the open market.

The blighted fortunes of today were then undreamed of. A merchant worth from \$2,500 to \$5,000 was esteemed a "merchant prince." Ministers were scarce and religious many, and every variety of faith and unfaith was represented. The city fathers took good care of the poor, and beggars were unknown.

New York was protected against foreign enemies by Fort James, a square stone structure with four bastions, containing forty guns. About fifteen vessels, averaging 100 tons each, traded with New York each year from Old and New England. The imports of English manufactures for the whole province amounted to about \$250,000 a year.

After 1673 there was a monthly post between New York and Boston. Whaling was then one of the leading industries of New York, and during the spring of 1669 no less than a score of whales were captured in New York harbor. New Yorkers had to get along without a newspaper for sixty years after the English occupation. It was not until 1725 that the first Bradford laid the foundation for the metropolitan press by issuing the New York Gazette. The "yellow press" got its start eight years later when John Taylor Zenger founded the Journal, in which he bitterly attacked the municipal and provincial authorities, for which he was imprisoned nine months.

FOURTH OF JULY TETANUS.

The American people have reason to congratulate themselves over at least one achievement. About the rapid disappearance of Fourth of July tetanus. While the total casualties of the glorious day are less than a quarter what they were five years ago the deaths from tetanus have shown a much greater reduction. In 1903 there were 417 Fourth of July victims of that dread malady, in 1909 the number had been reduced to 130, while from last season's celebration there were but 3. This is life conservation in the true sense of the term. "Why not entirely eliminate the disease this year?" asks the United States Public Health Service.

The blank cartridge wound is the great cause of Fourth of July tetanus. When driven into the tissues the wad carries with it innumerable bacilli, and the absorption of the poisonous products given off during the growth of these organisms produces the disease. The bacilli thrive only in the absence of oxygen. It is for this reason that the physician enlarges the wound of inlet and after removing all foreign material, dresses the injury in such a manner that development of the organisms is inhibited. In order to accomplish this it is usually necessary to administer a general anaesthetic. Anti-tetanic serum is of great value as a prophylactic measure, but it should be given soon after the receipt of the injury. Parents should realize that Fourth of July tetanus is easy to prevent but extremely difficult to cure. No blank cartridge wound is too trivial to receive careful medical attention. However slight the injury may appear, submit it to a physician and at once adopt energetic measures. Reliance upon home treatment may prove disastrous and result in the sacrifice of life. In 1903, before the widespread treatment of the possibilities of preventive treatment, one case of tetanus developed to every 4 blank cartridge wounds reported; in 1914, there was but 1 case to every 40 such injuries. This is the measure of the success of preventive treatment.

FUNERAL DESIGNS AND TRIBUTES

JOHN RECK & SON

Admiral Fiske, Who Caused Naval Storm, Will Be 61 On Sunday

Rear Admiral Bradley Allen Fiske, U. S. N., whose proffered resignation as aid for operations in the navy department at Washington recently caused a storm in naval circles, will be sixty-one years old on Sunday. The Admiral was born at Lyons, N. Y., June 13, 1854, and went thus far on the retired list, under the operation of the age limit, one year hence. His father was a clergyman. He graduated from the Naval Academy, standing second in the class, in 1874. He was the navigator of the Petrel at the battle of Manila, and was mentioned for "eminent and conspicuous conduct in battle." Admiral Dewey also praised his "heroic conduct" on that occasion. As aid for operations at the navy department, Rear Admiral Fiske testified before a House committee last December, and his statements did not agree with the optimistic opinions expressed by the Secretary of the Navy. Admiral Fiske told the committee that the United States is "behind other nations in mines and aircraft, and in the case of attack at sea, the need would be keenly felt."

Admiral Fiske continued: "Every navy, with the exception of our own, has an organization that is largely military. Every possible contingency has been carefully worked out and provided for, and the game of war is changed from time to time as conditions change. Every nation that has a navy, including Argentina, handles that arm of the defense through a general staff, with the sole exception of the United States." The United States, he said, if engaged in a war under present conditions, would have to handle its navy in a haphazard way.

Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels testified before the same committee, and expressed the opinion that the United States sea fighting force is efficient and capable under present conditions. It is believed that this difference of opinion as to the status of the navy led to friction, which came to a head when Admiral Fiske suddenly offered his resignation to Secretary Daniels. Admiral Fiske is the inventor of a number of devices now in use in the navies of the United States and other countries. His naval telescope sight has greatly improved accuracy in naval gunnery.

Sherwood Dunn

Dr. Berkeley Sherwood Dunn, the American physician, banker and financier who is now the head of a hospital on the firing line in France, is a native of Rushford, N. Y. He studied at the University of New York, completed his education at the University of France. From 1888 to 1895 he practiced medicine in Paris, and his familiarity with the French language and people and his sympathy for the French cause makes him well qualified for the difficult duties of the head of a field hospital. Since 1898 Dr. Sherwood Dunn has been engaged in business and finance. He has been president of the Aiken, S. C. Trust and Savings Bank, vice president of the First National Bank of Aiken, president of the New Jersey and Delaware Railway Company, and director of a number of railway, insurance and industrial corporations. Dr. Sherwood Dunn has also been editor of a medical journal, a college professor and a politician. Of late years he has resided in New York, with a winter home in Aiken, S. C. While living in Paris he was a leader in the medical profession, and interested in many humanitarian movements. He was one of the founders of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Paris. For his services in this and other capacities his name is decorated by the French government. For five years Dr. Sherwood Dunn was assistant to Prof. Pozzi in the Broca Hospital in Paris, and he gained a foremost place among the world's syphilologists before he abandoned his healing art to enter business life. For some time he was president of the European-American Bank and secretary of the Century Trust Company in New York. In 1898 he was editor of the Annals of Gynecology and Pediatrics in Boston, and for a time he was a member of the faculty of Tufts College Medical School. Dr. Sherwood Dunn married Miss Louise Knapp, of Rochester, N. Y., at Nice, France, in 1892.

First Naval Hero

The first naval hero of the United States—now almost forgotten—was Jeremiah O'Brien, a Maine man whose racial descent is clearly indicated by his name. He commanded an American vessel in the first naval battle of the revolution, which was fought near Machias, Maine, 140 years ago today, June 12, 1775. Some little time before an English schooner, the Marganetto, was in command of the Bay of Fundy. An English schooner and tender were sent out to look for the Marganetto, and when they returned to Machias he found them awaiting him. The first naval battle of the United States was fought then and there, and O'Brien and his men added the schooner and tender to their prizes.

HONORARY DEGREE FOR HENRY MORGENTHAU

Constantinople, June 13.—The honorary degree of doctor of laws was conferred upon United States Ambassador Henry Morgenthau at the 25th annual commencement of Constantinople college. In accepting the degree Mr. Morgenthau referred to the United States as the world's greatest university, to which all nations contribute students.

President Mary Mills Patrick conferred the degrees of bachelor of arts upon 19 girls who composed the largest class in the history of the college.

Recall Won't Improve Present System Says Attorney James Marr

That the initiative, referendum and recall, combined with the present governmental system in the city, would be inadequate and a poor substitute for commission government, was asserted last night by Attorney James A. Marr at a meeting of the Citizens' Improvement association in Germania hall. Attorney Marr declared that the recall would become a party question and an independent voter would have a small chance to remove an office holder. The Grand street bridge was discussed at the meeting, also.

Hold Band Concert At Beardsley Park Tomorrow Afternoon

The Wheeler & Wilson band will give a concert tomorrow at 2:30 p. m., at Beardsley park. Louis Chermak will be conductor. The program follows: Marcia, "Aida," Verdi. Walse de Concert, "Carmen"—Barnhouse. Overture, "Beautiful Galathea," Suppe. Cornet Duet, "Pearl Polka," (Adrian Vernon, E. E. Lyon)—King. Fantasia Descriptive "A Day in West Point"—Bendix. Intermezzo, "Hongroisla." Selection from the musical play, "Little Johnny Jones"—G. Cohan. Star Spangled Banner.

NEW LAW ACCORDS WITH COURT DECISION

Hartford, June 12.—The decision of the supreme court of errors on Thursday, in the case of Kennerson, administratrix, against the Thames Towboat Company, is of interest to all employers of labor, inasmuch as it declares legal a course of action which the recent Legislature enacted into statute at its recent session and after the case in question had been argued before the supreme court. It will be recalled that, in the case decided, compensation was asked for an employee who was killed while engaged in employment outside the state and the commissioner granted it. The court was of the opinion that the courts was that the law has no extra territorial effect and this contention is denied in the decision.

The Legislature of 1915, in its series of amendments to the compensation law, covered this ground by providing that an employee hired while in this state shall be entitled to the benefits of act, if injured in the course of his employment while outside the limits of the state. It was also provided that a person injured in this state while in the employ of a foreign corporation was also subject to the benefits of the act. The amendment in question was one of those presented and explained by Commissioner Fred M. Williams and, like the others, was endorsed by all the commissioners as being necessary to carry out the intent of the law. It met with no opposition either in the Senate or the House.

WINSTED FACTORY GUTTED BY FIRE

Winsted, June 12.—Owing to the carelessness of two workmen in using a torch while at work in the lacquer room of the Goodwin, Kintz Company the two upper floors of the factory were gutted by fire yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock and the loss on building and contents was estimated at \$8,000. Water flooded the lower floors of the factory. The property was insured for \$20,000.

The company went into the hands of a receiver last fall, Gilbert L. Hart being appointed. He reported to Judge Reed of the superior court, at the May term, the company was \$50,000 in debt. The personal and real estate of the company was sold Wednesday morning at public auction.

LINEMAN KILLED

Stamford, June 12.—Michael Dugan, 43 years old, was killed by electricity yesterday afternoon while at work as a lineman in this city. His body was suspended from the wires and it was necessary to cut them.

COMPLAIN OF OIL

Complaining that too much oil has been laid on the streets of East Bridgeport, residents of that section are indignant. At Washington Park M. E. church tomorrow it is likely canvas will be spread in the interior to prevent ruin of the carpets.

LAWN HOSE

The quality kind, the kind our manufacturers stand back of every foot, the kind that our experience for several years in handling several brands, has taught us that our respective brands are the very best of their class.

OUR LEADER, 3/4 INCH A STRONG 5 PLY HOSE, 10c FOOT

OUR WALLABOUT VERY STRONG 3 PLY DUCK, 12c

TEMPEST NONE BETTER, VERY STRONG, 16c MOULDED HOSE 13c to 16c

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DON'T GO HOME WITHOUT A COPY

Bridgeport

What's ON in Bridgeport

A FEW OF THE FEATURES THAT ARE WORTH YOUR READING

A Multi-Millionaire to Build New Theatre in Bridgeport.

John T. King Says That a Newspaper is a Business Proposition.

June Bells, Bells and Weddings.

Photo in Colors of Marguerite Clark and Her Life Story.

The Opening of Read's Tea Room.

The MacKenzie-Hopkins Wedding, Society, Mrs. Susan Hawley Davis' Rectal, School Graduations, Woman's Ways, etc., by Jane.

Photo in Colors of Louise Rutter, a Thanhouse Star. Photo of Nell McClune, a Lyric Star. Photo of Harry Morrissey, the Singing Cop.

"The Goddess," by Gouverneur Morris. "The Black Box," by E. Phillips Oppenheim.

"What's On for the Week at the Theatres," by Thespia. Sports, by Scout. "What's On Financially," by the Golden Grasshopper. "They Tell Me" Column. "Film Facts and Fancies."

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